

## MINUTES

### COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR AIKEN COUNTY

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 736 RICHLAND AVENUE, W., AIKEN, S. C.

REGULAR MEETING – MAY 4, 2004 – 7:00 P. M.

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#### (A) CALL TO ORDER

Determining that a quorum was present, Chairman Young called the meeting to order.

Council Members present:

Chairman Ronnie Young  
Kathy Rawls  
Scott Singer  
LaWana McKenzie  
Chuck Smith  
Eddie Butler  
Charles Barton  
Rick Osbon  
Willar H. Hightower, Jr.

Also present:

J. Clay Killian, County Administrator  
Robert M. Bell, County Attorney  
Tamara Sullivan, Council Clerk

#### (B) INVOCATION

Reverend Douglas Slaughter led in the invocation.

#### (C) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Osbon led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### (D) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 20, 2004 Worksession
2. April 20, 2004 Regular Meeting
3. April 27, 2004 Special Meeting

- a. Councilwoman McKenzie made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Smith seconded.
- b. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

#### (E) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Councilwoman McKenzie made a motion to amend and approve the agenda as follows:
  1. Delete Old Business Item 2.
  2. Delete Consent Item 3.
- b. Councilman Butler seconded the motion. The amended agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

(F) OLD BUSINESS

1. Proposed Resolution to Delete Satcher Pond Road (C-520) from the List of Roads to be Paved Utilizing the Capital Projects Sales Tax.  
(Development Committee)
  - a. Councilman Smith made a motion for the approval. Councilman Butler seconded.
  - b. Passed by unanimous vote.
2. Proposed Resolution to Delete Nantucket Road (S-243) from the List of Roads to be Paved Utilizing the Capital Projects Sales Tax.  
(Development Committee)

**DELETED**

(G) CONSENT AGENDA/INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

I. REGULAR CONSENT AGENDA

1. Proposed Resolution to Appoint One Member to Designated Boards, Commissions and Committees with Terms of the Appointees to Run Concurrent with that of the Councilmember from Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.  
(Rawls, Singer, McKenzie, Smith, Butler, Barton, Osbon)
2. Proposed Resolution to Approve the Allocation of Funds for Various Non Profit Agencies from the FY 2004 Council Contingency Fund.  
(County Council)
3. Proposed Resolution to Authorize the Council Chairman to Enter into an Agreement with Mundy & Salley, Inc, for One (1) 12,470 Volt Pad Mounted Electrical Switch Gear at a Cost of \$114,500.  
(Development Committee)

**DELETED**

4. Proposed Resolution to Direct that Speed Limit Signs be Erected on Wooduck Way (C-36) Located in Council District 6.  
(Barton)
5. Proposed Resolution to Assign the Official Road Name of Hideaway Lane to an Existing Unnamed Private Road in County Council District 1.  
(Rawls)
6. Proposed Resolution to Support the Concept of a New Health Department Facility to Provide Quality Health Services to the Citizens of Aiken County.  
(Judicial & Public Safety Committee)
7. Proposed Resolution Honoring the Second Baptist Church of Aiken, SC on its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Improving the Quality of Life of Aiken County Citizens.  
(Hightower)

8. Proposed Resolution to Authorize the County Administrator to Negotiate a Contract with ACP Visioning and Planning for Professional Services to Develop a Strategic Plan for Aiken County.  
(County Council)

## II. CONSENT AGENDA/INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

9. Proposed Ordinance Directing that the Implementation of Real Property Reassessment in Aiken County be Delayed for One (1) Year, as Authorized by Statute; and Other Matters Related Thereto.  
(County Council)
  - a. Councilman Osbon made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Hightower seconded.
  - b. The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

## (H) PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of Proposed African American Cultural Center.  
(Rev. Douglas Slaughter and Ms. Lessie Price) (Requested by Councilman Hightower and Osbon)
  - a. Council received presentations in support of the African American Cultural Center from the following citizens:
    1. Mr. George Estes, SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism
    2. Ms. Maggie Moorehouse, a history professor at USC-Aiken
    3. Mr. Scott Hunter, Chairman of the Fundraising Committee for the Cultural Center
    4. The Honorable Lessie Price, Councilwoman for the City of Aiken
    5. Reverend Douglas Slaughter, Chairman of the African American Cultural Center Project

It was pointed out during the presentations that the Center would boost tourism dollars spent in Aiken County, it would help preserve African American history, and it would provide a multifaceted learning center for the citizens throughout the County. Reverend Slaughter indicated that the operation of Center would be self supporting.

Council was urged to pledge financial support of the Cultural Center in the amount of \$500,000. The balance of the 1.3 million dollar renovation project would be raised with grants, private donations, and other public funds. The buildings and the property would be deeded to the Aiken Corporation.

- b. Councilwoman Rawls made a Voice Motion to direct staff to draft an Ordinance for Council's consideration for a 3% Accommodations Tax for the unincorporated areas of the County to fund tourism related projects. Councilman Hightower seconded the Voice Motion.
    - c. Councilman Hightower made an amendment motion for the County to fund \$500,000 for the African American Cultural Center up front from whatever source, and then replace

those funds with money generated by the 3% Accommodations Tax. Councilwoman Rawls seconded the amendment.

- d. Following discussion, Councilman Hightower withdrew his motion and Councilwoman Rawls withdrew her second.
- e. Councilman Smith made an amendment motion to show voice support for the Cultural Center and to refer the issue to the appropriate subcommittee for further review to find alternatives for funding that facility. Councilman Singer seconded the amendment.
- f. Following discussion, the amendment failed with Councilman Singer and Councilman Smith voting in favor. Councilwoman Rawls, Councilwoman McKenzie, Councilman Butler, Councilman Barton, Councilman Osbon, Councilman Hightower and the Chairman voted in opposition.
- g. The Voice Motion made by Councilwoman Rawls passed by majority vote with Councilwoman Rawls, Councilwoman McKenzie, Councilman Butler, Councilman Barton, Councilman Osbon, Councilman Hightower and the Chairman voting in favor. Councilman Singer and Councilman Smith voted in opposition.
- h. Councilman Hightower made a motion to pass a Resolution to express support for the African American Cultural Center, with no dollar amount specified. Councilman Osbon seconded the motion.
- i. The Resolution passed by unanimous vote.

(I) ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND THE PUBLIC RECORD

- 1. Fiscal Year 2004 Aiken County Contingency Report as of April 21, 2004.

(J) INFORMAL MEETING OF WHOLE

- a. Councilwoman Rawls made a motion to recess for Executive Session. Councilman Smith seconded.
- b. The motion to recess passed by unanimous vote.

RECESSED – 8:24 P. M.

(K) EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. Legal Matters:
  - a. Status Report on Pending Litigation, Legal Claims and Legal Advice.  
(County Attorney) (Verbal)
- 2. Contractual Matters:
- 3. Personnel Matters:

RECONVENED – 8:47 P. M.

- a. Councilman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Osbon seconded.
- b. The motion to adjourn passed by unanimous vote.

(L) ADJOURNMENT – 8:48 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNED:

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Tamara Sullivan, Council Clerk

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Ronnie Young, Chairman